United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1286
9 December 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ In Presidential statement tonight, Security Council strongly condemns reports of forced evacuation of Sarajevo and impediment of distribution of humanitarian assistance to its inhabitants; warns of further measures against those who commit or support such actions.

+ Security Council concludes tonight there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modification of the measures of sanctions imposed against Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in resolution 748 (1992); in joint letter, France, United Kingdom and United States warn Libya of their determination to intensify efforts, in cooperation with Secretary-General, to make United Nations sanctions against that country more effective.

+ Secretary-General "deeply concerned" at destruction of Babri mosque in Ayodhya and subsequent escalation of violence in India and neighbouring countries.

+ Renewed fighting in Kabul resulting in loss of life, destruction of property and serious damage to United Nations compound viewed by Secretary-General with great concern.

+ Secretary-General, responding to reports of worsening humanitarian situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan, authorizes urgent programme of humanitarian assistance for region; emergency appeal issued.

+ Next year will be "crucial" in fight for human rights and a test for international response to massive violations of human rights, says Secretary-General in message for Human Rights Day 1992, tomorrow; International Year of Indigenous Populations to be launched tomorrow.

+ International Fund for Agricultural Development announces plans for development project for El Salvador aimed at helping former government soldiers and guerrillas alike.

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Press Release DH/1286
9 December 1992

In a Presidential Statement issued at a meeting of the Security Council tonight, the President of the Council, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan (India), said that Council's members were alarmed by the most recent reports that Serb militia in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina had renewed their offensive there, in particular against the city of Sarajevo, resulting in further loss of life and material damage as well as endangering the security of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and international relief workers, thus threatening international peace and security.

The Council was particularly alarmed by reports that the Serb militia were forcing the inhabitants of the Sarajevo to evacuate the city. It warned that actions aimed at impeding the distribution of humanitarian assistance and at forcing the inhabitants to leave the city, including the possibility of ethnic cleansing, would have grave consequences for the overall situation in that country.

The Council strongly condemned those attacks as violations of its relevant resolutions and of previous commitments, in particular with regard to the cessation of hostilities, the ban on military flights in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the safety of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and the restoration of power and water supplies.

The Council demanded the immediate cessation of those attacks and of all actions aimed at impeding the distribution of humanitarian assistance and at forcing the inhabitants of Sarajevo to leave the city. If such attacks continued, the Council would consider, as soon as possible, further measures against those who commit or support them, to ensure the security of UNPROFOR and of international relief workers, the ability of UNPROFOR to fulfil its mandate and compliance with the Council's relevant resolutions.

The meeting of the Security Council was held at the request of the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, who, in a letter to the Council President, dated 7 December, said the request was being submitted "in view of the dramatic increase in aggression against Sarajevo and Bihac and cities in central Bosnia". Sarajevo had endured days of intensified shelling and the closing of its airport, and a western suburb of the city of Otes had fallen.
Document S/24916

* * *

In a note issued tonight at Headquarters, the President of the Security Council, on behalf of its members, stated that, following informal consultations today, he had concluded that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modification of the measures of sanctions imposed by Council's resolution 748 (1992) against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The Council consultations were held pursuant to a decision by its members, contained in the same resolution, to review every 120 days or sooner, should the situation so require, the measures imposed in resolution 748 against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

(more)

In a separate development, France, the United Kingdom and the United States have accused Libya of continuing to defy international law with regard to terrorism, and warned that they were determined to intensify their efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, to make United Nations sanctions against that country more effective.

Marking the first anniversary on 27 November of the tripartite declaration issued a year ago following the investigation into the bombings of flights Pan Am 103 and UTA 772, the three countries reiterated their demand that Libya "promptly, by concrete actions, prove its renunciation of terrorism". Their new declaration strongly reaffirmed their single objective with respect to Libya: complete and unequivocal compliance with the terms of the Security Council resolutions. Justice for the 441 victims of the two flights, and international peace and security, which was threatened by Libya's support of terrorism, required no less, stated the declaration.

Libya's continued failure to fulfil its international obligations would only result in furthering its isolation from the world community, pursued the statement, warning the Libyan Government of the three States resolve on the matter.

The declaration was contained in a letter, dated 7 December, to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States.
Document S/24913

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed "deep concern" at the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya and the subsequent escalation of violence in India and neighbouring countries resulting in the loss of life and destruction of places of worship.

According to a statement issued today at Headquarters, the Secretary-General urged all sides to show restraint so as to avoid further bloodshed. He appealed to Hindus and Muslims to resolve their differences "through dialogue and in a spirit of tolerance and human solidarity, which would foster peaceful coexistence of religious communities".

* * *

In a second announcement today, the Secretary-General said he viewed with great concern the renewed outbreak of fighting in Kabul which has resulted in loss of life, destruction of property and serious damage to the United Nations compound.

The Secretary-General appealed to all Afghan leaders to put an end to these hostilities immediately and resume consultations that would restore the political process. That would allow the uninterrupted flow of emergency supplies to the city at the onset of the harsh winter season, and provide the security necessary for the convening of the Shoora.

(more)

* * *

The Secretary-General, responding to reports of the worsening humanitarian situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan and the declaration on Monday of a state of national disaster by the President of Armenia, authorized the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, to coordinate an urgent programme of assistance for the region.

Subsequently, an Immediate Emergency Appeal for Armenia and Azerbaijan was issued yesterday, detailing requirements totalling $10 million in relief supplies and projects envisaged by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Mr. Eliasson emphasized the urgency of the appeal and urged Governments and non-governmental organizations to pledge the funds necessary for immediate delivery of assistance. A spokesman at Headquarters said today that some of the emergency work aimed at assisting the more vulnerable groups among refugees and displaced people had already begun.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian, in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, said that the Azeri blockade on the country had caused a severe energy crisis. Explaining his declaration of a state of national disaster, he said help would be needed for the next 12 months to enable the people of Armenia to survive through the harsh winter months.

"The Government and people of Armenia urgently require sustained, effective humanitarian assistance in order to prevent deaths in the tens of thousands from exposure, hunger and inadequate medical attention," he said.

* * *

The year 1993 will be a "crucial year" in the fight for human rights and a test for international response to massive violations of human rights, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in his message for Human Rights Day 1992, to be observed tomorrow. Another test, he says, lies in the understanding of the relationship between development and human rights.

"Full human dignity means not only freedom from torture, but also freedom from starvation. It means freedom to vote as it means the right to education. It means freedom of belief as it means the right to health. It means the rights to enjoy all rights without discrimination. And true development requires a solid basis of democracy and popular participation", the Secretary-General stated.

A cultural event to launch the International Year of the World's Indigenous People will take place tomorrow at Headquarters featuring indigenous performers. The event is organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) and co-sponsored by a number of United Nations organizations.

(more)

* * *

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) today announced its plans for the first major United Nations development project for El Salvador since the end of the country's civil war. The project, aimed at rebuilding the society and promoting peace, will help former government soldiers and guerrillas alike.

The nearly $40 million project, which will be carried out over six years, will help restore agriculture to Chalantenango province, one of the most war-ravaged areas of El Salvador's 12-year civil war, according to Idriss Jazairy, President of IFAD. "The project could very well serve as a model for the agricultural reconstruction of the entire nation, as well as other war-torn nations."

The project will benefit 10,500 rural families in Chalantenango by establishing credit and bringing modern training and marketing to set up both farms and businesses. The IFAD will help establish farms for 9,000 families, and set up small rural enterprises for an additional 1,500 families. The latter group would consist of the landless, demobilized guerrillas, war-affected families and the war disabled.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1287
10 December 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Representatives of Somali political movements to receive invitation to informal preparatory meeting in Addis Ababa on 4 January, under chairmanship of Secretary-General, to consider arrangements for national reconciliation conference.

+ Many of world's 300 million indigenous people face social and economic disadvantage and human rights violations, says Secretary-General, inaugurating International Year for World's Indigenous People; appeals for contributions to new Voluntary Fund to assist indigenous people.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy, concluding mission to South Africa, says it is time for parties to renounce violence and to negotiate.

+ Issue of foreign residents and immigrants raised today by Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, at working session of Supreme National Council under his Chairmanship.

* * *

The leaders of the Somali political movements are to be invited by the Secretary-General to attend an informal preparatory meeting at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa on 4 January, under the auspices of the United Nations, to make arrangements for a national reconciliation conference. According to a United Nations spokesman, the list of participants has not yet been finalized, but it will include the nine political movements that have been invited to earlier meetings in Addis Ababa.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat Kittani, according to the spokesman, today informed two Somali leaders, General Aidid and Ali Mahdi, that they would be receiving invitations to attend the meeting within the next two days. He said Mr. Kittani had held talks today with both General Aidid and Ali Mahdi, and that he would be attending a meeting at the United States embassy in Mogadishu tomorrow with the two leaders and the United States Ambassador to Somalia.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

At his meetings today, Mr. Kittani gave the two Somali leaders information on the division of labour in the operation authorized by the Security Council. He pointed out that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), under his leadership, would remain fully responsible for political and humanitarian assistance, while the Unified Task Force was in charge of securing delivery of that assistance. Once that was accomplished, the military command would also be turned over to the United Nations, Mr. Kittani said.

The spokesman emphasized that there was very good coordination between the United Nations and the Unified Task Force, both at Headquarters in New York and on the ground in Mogadishu.

* * *

It was no coincidence that the United Nations was launching 1993 as International Year of the World's Indigenous People today, Human Rights Day, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the General Assembly at this morning's inaugural ceremony for the Year. Many of the 300 million indigenous people in the world faced social and economic disadvantage in the societies in which they lived, he said, and some of the worst violations of human rights had been perpetrated against them.

"Today indigenous people are often among the poorest, worst housed and least paid," he continued. "They usually have less access to education and welfare than other members of society."

A welcome change was taking place at national and international levels, he said. Many indigenous people had formed their own organizations and were active in seeking improvements in their condition. It was important that this Year should see the situation of indigenous people brought into centre-stage as a subject for public awareness and debate. The really crucial role of the United Nations, he stressed, was to promote and protect their human rights.

The Secretary-General opened a Voluntary Fund for the International Year, to provide resources for practical assistance to indigenous people. He appealed to all Governments, non-governmental organizations and other institutions and individuals to contribute.

* * *

Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to South Africa, yesterday concluded his 17-day mission and returned to New York to present his report to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In a statement to the press before his departure, Ambassador Vraalsen said the increased momentum towards multiparty talks, which South Africa had witnessed in the last two weeks, was a hopeful sign. However, he noted, there had also been recent developments which threatened to disrupt this forward momentum. He expressed the belief that time had come for "all parties in

(more)

South Africa to renounce violence and come to the negotiating table". He appealed to all parties to refrain from actions which would complicate the process.

* * *

The issue of foreign residents and immigrants was raised by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, today at a working session of the Supreme National Council under his Chairmanship.

According to the Spokesman of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Mr. Akashi had proposed draft terms of reference for a Technical Advisory Committee on the matter, saying that it should be "objectively and impartially researched in order to facilitate the task of a future Cambodian government developing long-term policy in that regard".

Mr. Akashi had also presented a report on the operations of the Strategic Teams on the investigation of the presence of foreign forces in Cambodia, indicating that "every single one of these investigations, to which UNTAC has devoted considerable time and manpower, has been inconclusive". Reaffirming UNTAC's commitment to the national independence of Cambodia, he said he could not "accept allegations that UNTAC is not doing enough to investigate the presence of foreign forces".

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1288
11 December 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously authorizes the deployment of one batallion and 35 military observers from the United Nations Protection Force, along with 26 civilian police, on Macedonian side of that Republic's borders with Albania and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to monitor developments.

+ Meeting in Mogadishu between Secretary-General's Special Representative, Commander of Unified Task Force and United States Ambassador Oakley results in decision to establish liaison units at United Nations headquarters and Task Force's headquarters.

+ General Assembly asks Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit, not later than 30 June, written comments on possible review of membership of Council.

+ President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola asks for extension of mandate of United Nations Angola Verification Mission to eliminate, what he calls, "mistrust" felt by UNITA before elections runoff.

+ Secretary-General appoints Dante Caputo, former Foreign Minister of Argentina and President of 43rd session of General Assembly, as his Special Envoy for Haiti.

+ Moldova asks for United Nations observers to attend talks on withdrawal of Russian Federation's 14th Army from its territory and for United Nations mission to evaluate human rights situation in eastern part of country.

* * *

By adopting unanimously resolution 795, the Security Council tonight authorized the Secretary-General to establish a presence of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Republic of Macedonia, as recommended by him in his report, and so to inform the authorities of Albania and those of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to deploy immediately the military, civil affairs, and administrative personnel recommended in his report, and that he deploy the police monitors immediately upon receiving the consent of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to do so.

In his report to the Council of 9 December, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had recommended that one UNPROFOR batallion of up to 700 persons and 35 UNPROFOR military observers be deployed on the Macedonian side of that Republic's borders with Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the essentially preventive mandate of this Force should be to monitor and report any developments in the border area which could undermine confidence and stability in Macedonia or threaten its territory.

In his report, the Secretary-General had also recommended that a group of 26 United Nations civilian police (UNCIVPOL) be deployed in the border areas to monitor the Macedonian border police. The UNCIVPOL presence would assist in calming any inter-ethnic tensions arising from perceptions that the Macedonian police had harassed or abused Albanians, mainly in the context of illegal border crossings, said the Secretary-General. In addition, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali had recommended the deployment in Macedonia of a small group of civil affairs and administrative personnel.

Endorsing the findings of UNPROFOR Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, during a mission to Macedonia from 28 November to 3 December, the Secretary-General had said in his report that he shared the belief that a "small United Nations group deployment of this kind ... would help Macedonia and the two neighbouring countries concerned to make safe passage through a potentially turbulent and hazardous period".

The Secretary-General also recommended in his report that the "start-up costs" of new deployment would be met initially from the resources made available for UNPROFOR by the General Assembly at its current session.

* * *

The Commander of the Unified Force in Somalia, General Johnston, Ambassador Robert Oakley of the United States and the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ismat T. Kittani, met this morning in Mogadishu, a United Nations spokesman told correspondents today at Headquarters.

It was decided during the meeting, which was described by Mr. Kittani as "extremely good", that the Unified Task Force would establish a liaison unit at the headquarters of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and that there would be representatives of UNOSOM at the Task Force's headquarters. Earlier today, General Johnston, Mr. Kittani and Ambassador Oakley had met with the Somali leaders, General Aideed and Ali Mahdi, for discussions on military and security matters.

* * *

(more)

The General Assembly has asked the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit, not later than 30 June, written comments on a possible review of the membership of the Council. It took that action by adopting a resolution this morning, without a vote, on the question of the equitable representation on, and increase in, the membership of the Security Council.

Recognizing the crucial role of the Council in maintaining international peace and security, the new international situation and the increase in the membership of the Organization, the Assembly has also asked the Secretary-General to report on the comments made by Member States on the subject.

* * *

The President of Angola, Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, has asked the United Nations for an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) in order to eliminate, what he calls, "the mistrust" felt by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The increased role of the United Nations was "desirable" to ensure the required conditions before the presidential elections runoff.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 9 December, President Dos Santos said UNITA's mistrust could "constitute a pretext" for its failure to participate in acts which were "important and indispensable for the functioning of Angola's institutions" and for the implementation of the peace accords.

He said the Angolan Government considered that the solution to the Angolan crisis was to be found in the full compliance by UNITA with the peace accords, including an acceptance of the cease-fire, demilitarization and disarmament of UNITA, participation of UNITA in the Angolan Armed Forces, and participation of the UNITA deputies in the elected National Assembly.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Dante Caputo, a former Foreign Minister of Argentina who served as President of the General Assembly at its forty-third session, as his Special Envoy for Haiti.

The Spokesman for the Secretary-General said today that Mr. Caputo would undertake the mission at the request of the General Assembly "to take the necessary measures in order to assist, in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS), in the solution of the Haitian crisis".

Mr. Caputo will assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report he has been requested to submit to the General Assembly by mid-February on the implementation of the resolution. Next week, prior to beginning his mission, he will come to New York for consultations.

* * *

(more)

Moldova has reiterated its request for United Nations observers to attend the Moldovan-Russian talks on the withdrawal of the Russian Federation's 14th Army from Moldova and to dispatch a United Nations mission to evaluate the human rights situation in the eastern part of the country.

In a letter of 9 December addressed to the Secretary-General, the Foreign Minister of Moldova, Nicolae Tau, said the Russian Army was "an occupation force", and its presence in Moldova represented a "permanent source of conflict and a perpetual threat to its integrity and security". Document S/24931

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1289
14 December 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General tells press conference at Headquarters that he will travel to El Salvador tonight to participate in ceremonies marking formal end to conflict in that country; responds to questions relating to United Nations peace-keeping operations in Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique, Somalia and former Yugoslavia.

+ Security Council extends again mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus until 15 June 1993; Secretary-General appeals to Member States for voluntary contributions to Force, now in shortfall of over 197 million.

+ Ukraine protests Russian decision to consider status of city of Sevastopol, saying it is integral part of Ukraine.

+ Thérèse Gastaut named Director of United Nations Information Service at Geneva.

+ World Commission on Culture and Development created by UNESCO, in cooperation with United Nations; former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar named President of Commission.

+ Six former Soviet Republics seek United Nations legal Council's opinion on whether Russian Federation is legal successor of former Soviet Union.

+ "Sharp deterioration" of situation in regions of Azerbaijan bordering with Armenia, reported by Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told a press conference at Headquarters this morning that he would travel to El Salvador tonight to participate in ceremonies marking the formal end to the conflict in that country. Despite certain difficulties in the peace process, he said, the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had accepted the demobilization of its forces by 15 December, as agreed to under the peace

(more)

For information media—not an official record

agreement. "This has been made possible by the reciprocal actions taken by the Government to carry out reforms agreed to in negotiations", he said.

The Secretary-General also reviewed the United Nations peace-keeping and peace-making operations in Angola, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique, Somalia and Yugoslavia. On the question of the disarmament of the warring factions in Somalia, he said consultations were still being held with the United States on the nature of the participation of the Unified Task Force in that effort. The Secretary-General cited the Security Council's resolution of 3 December authorizing the use of force in Somalia, saying the Council considered disarmament "a prerequisite" before the Unified Command could be replaced by a United Nations peace-keeping operation.

Asked by correspondents what were the criterias for humanitarian intervention and why there was no such intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary-General pointed out that, on one hand, it was incombent upon the Security Council to decide where to intervene or not intervene, and, on the other hand, in the case of Somalia there was no government - thus making distribution of humanitarian assistance impossible - whereas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations negotiated with Governments. "Inspite of difficulties, we are managing to distribute humanitarian assistance", said the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General indicated that he would be going to Geneva later this year to meet with leaders of the conflicting parties in the former Yugoslavia.

* * *

The Security Council this morning extended once more the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six-month period until 15 June 1993. It took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 796 (1992), under which it asked the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices, to keep the Council informed of the progress made and to submit a report on the situation on Cyprus by 31 May 1993.

The Council also welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to hold consultations with the troop-contributing Governments about a restructuring of the Force and to report on the matter to the Council as soon as possible.

In a related development, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to Member States for their voluntary financial contribution to meet the accumulated shortfall of over $197 million in UNFICYP's budget.

In a letter to all Member States, dated 24 November, he said the United Nations had been able to meet the claims of troop-contributing countries only up to December 1981, and that it was "most unfair" that those countries should have to absorb such a "disproportionate share of the cost" of the Force.

The vital role of UNFICYP had been unanimously stressed by the Security Council time and again, and the Force continued to make an indispensable

contribution to maintaining calm on the island, a condition which, he said, was "clearly necessary" for his ongoing efforts to negotiate a political settlement.
Document S/24938

* * *

The Ukrainian Parliament has protested a Russian decision to have the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation consider the status of the city of Sevastopol. The protest was contained in a letter of 10 December, transmitted by the Ukrainian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Victor H. Batiouk.

Calling the Russian move "yet another flagrant attempt to put forward territorial claims upon Ukraine", the Ukrainian Parliament stressed that Sevastopol was an integral part of Ukraine and that its status could not be determined by any other country. The decision, it said, violated the agreements between the two countries, was a glaring interference in Ukraine's internal affairs and threatened the good neighbourliness between them. Any encroachment on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, it said, would be considered a blatant violation of the principles and norms of international law.
Document A/47/777

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Thérèse Gastaut, a national of France, as Director of the United Nations Information Service at Geneva, with effect from 15 December. As the Spokeswoman of the Secretary-General, based in Geneva, Mrs. Gastaut will also undertake special media and public information assignments for the Secretary-General. She has previously served as Director of the Geneva Information Service from 1984 to 1989.

Mrs. Gastaut served as spokeswoman for the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and manager of the WHO Information Programme on the time of her appointment.

* * *

A World Commission on Culture and Development has been established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in cooperation with the United Nations. The first ever global approach to the the subject, it will explore the role cultural factors play in the well-being of each society, and will make concrete proposals on how the international community can deepen the links between development and culture.

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, has been named President of the Commission, which will be meeting for the first time in early 1993. Serving with him will be five honorary members widely recognized for their intellectual, political and cultural

contributions: Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Claude Levi-Strauss of France, as well as three Nobel Laureates, Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar, Ilya Prigogine of Belgium and Derek Walcott of Saint Lucia. The other members of the Commission, represent a similarly distinguished international spectrum of academic, cultural and governmental authorities.

* * *

The representative of Estonia, speaking on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Lithuania and Moldova, has proposed that the United Nations Legal Council be asked to submit a written opinion on whether the Russian Federation is the legal successor State of the former Soviet Union.

Addressing the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) over the weekend, the Estonian representative also asked whether it was legally valid, as decided by the Committee on Contributions, to redistribute a portion of the former Soviet Union's assessment among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, instead of assessing the individual countries as new Member States.

The representative of the Russian Federation said it was inappropriate to question the competence of the Committee on Contributions. If the former Soviet States were to be assessed strictly in accordance with their capacity to pay, then his country, too, should be assessed on that basis.

* * *

The Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan has informed the President of the Security Council that there has been a "sharp deterioration" of the situation in the regions of Azerbaijan bordering with Armenia. According to a statement transmitted to the Council President in a letter, dated 11 December, regular units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia were actively attempting to carry out offensive action along the Armenian/Azerbaijani border. The Azerbaijani Foreign Minister said "this aggression, and the occupation of the Lachin area", had finally destroyed "the myth of Armenia's non-participation in the conflict around Upper Karabakh".

He called on the international community to make all possible efforts to end the Armenian aggression, and described the attempts by Armenia to appeal to the international community that it was "suffocating in the grip of a blockade", as "utterly absurd".
Document S/24952

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1290
15 December 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations involvement in El Salvador has been "pioneering experience" in post-conflict peace-building, Secretary-General states at ceremony in San Salvador marking end to conflict in that country.

+ Twenty-two foreign ministers to attend tomorrow's meeting in Geneva of Steering Committee of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia; United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in former Yugoslavia requests investigation in reports of mass graves in Croatia.

+ World Food Programme to send 100 long-haul trucks and trailers from Ethiopia and Eritrea to speed up delivery of relief food to people in Somalia; Finland contributes $700,000 to Trust Fund for Somalia.

+ Senegal asks for inclusion of additional item on General Assembly's agenda entitled: "Convening of an international conference on Somalia".

+ Number of Cambodian voters registered to take part in elections next year expected to pass 4 million mark today or tomorrow; number of political parties reaches 20.

+ As environment has deteriorated, international cooperation has improved, head of United Nations Environment Programme says at launch of report entitled The World Environment 1972-1992: Two Decades of Challenge.

+ Major-General Trond Furuhovde of Norway appointed Commander of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with effect from 23 February 1993, replacing Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden.

* * *

For the United Nations, involvement in El Salvador has been a pioneering experience -- the first in a new generation of United Nations operations whose purpose was post-conflict peace-building, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today in a statement at the ceremony in San Salvador marking the end of the 12-year armed conflict in that country.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Following a year without armed combat, he said, El Salvador had "crossed the line from armed peace into a new era". Monitoring of respect for human rights was an important element of the work of the United Nations in El Salvador, as was the reunification of the Salvadoran society -- a goal which was "still not within reach". He warned that there were Salvadorans "who continue to fight the war in their hearts", and urged the parties to the peace agreement "to give the example" by complying scrupulously with their solemn undertakings and play a "determined, active role in assisting the process of detente and reconciliation".

In addition to the verification of respect for human rights, the Secretary-General said the United Nations was variously involved in a complex and integrated set of tasks, including assisting the national police and monitoring of its activities, the creation of a new National Civil Police, and verification of the transition to a "new, leaner Armed Forces".

In closing, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he and the Security Council placed the greatest emphasis on the consolidation of stable conditions following the definitive end of the armed conflict. However, he cautioned, "the primary responsibility lies with the Salvadorans".

* * *

Almost two dozen foreign ministers will be attending tomorrow's meeting in Geneva of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. Only China and the Russian Federation will be represented at a lower level, because - according to the Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of the Conference - the two countries will be holding bilateral talks at that time.

The meeting, the Spokesman indicated, was part of the ongoing effort to build consensus on ways to solve the problems of the former Yugoslavia. The participants will be addressed by the Co-Chairmen, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, and hear briefings from the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Satish Nambiar, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, and the Chairman of the Conference's Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Martti Ahtisaari.

Following the meeting, Mr. Vance will be coming to New York to consult with the Secretary-General and then return to Geneva over the weekend. The Secretary-General announced during a press conference yesterday that he plans to go to Geneva before the end of the year, to participate in discussions on the former Yugoslavia.

In a separate development, the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, has requested Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, to carry out preliminary investigations on his behalf into alleged sites of mass graves in Croatia.

(more)

Mr. Ndiaye will travel to the area tomorrow, Wednesday, 16 December, and is expected to return to Geneva before 25 December. His findings will be included in Mr. Mazowiecki's report to the forthcoming forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Commission.

These preliminary inquiries are to be carried out in parallel with an in-depth investigation by a team of forensic experts into a mass grave at Ovcara, in United Nations Protected Area (UNPA), which was discovered recently. The in-depth investigation is conducted under the responsibility of the Commission of Experts established in accordance with Security Council resolution 780 (1992)

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) today announced that it is sending 100 long-haul trucks and trailers to speed up delivery of relief food to people in the country, once roads and extended delivery points are secure. The WFP would immediately airlift 20 of the trucks to Mogadishu from Ethiopia, starting tomorrow, Wednesday 16 December.

"Now that we are able to deliver food into Mogadishu, it is critical that we have enough reliable trucks to move into the interior of Somalia where people are in the greatest need", said WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini. This truck fleet has been working inside Ethiopia and Eritrea for the last seven years, delivering more than 2.3 million metric tonnes of food.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman today said the Government of Finland has made a $700,000 contribution to the Trust Fund for Somalia. The Trust Fund was created under Security Council resolution 794 of 3 December, calling on all Member States, which were in a position to do so, to provide military forces and to make additional contributions in cash or in kind.

* * *

Senegal has asked for the inclusion of an additional item on the General Assembly's agenda entitled: "Convening of an international conference on Somalia".

In an aide-mémoire to the General Assembly, dated 10 December, Abdou Diouf, the President of Senegal and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), proposed that the General Assembly urgently establish the means whereby the Secretary-General might "exploit all the possibilities made available to him for the purpose of promoting a comprehensive and final settlement of the grave crisis" in Somalia.

According to a draft resolution submitted by Senegal, the international peace conference on Somalia would be held under United Nations auspices and in cooperation with the OAU, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, among others. The text noted that the restoration of much-needed peace and stability in Somalia depended on a cease-fire under international observation, national

(more)

reconciliation among the various factions, and preparation and organization of free and fair elections in Somalia under the supervision of the international community.
Document A/47/780

* * *

The number of Cambodian voters equipped with their registration cards for the elections next year was expected to pass the 4 million mark today or tomorrow, the spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) reported today. The pace of voter registration had slowed recently, he said, but in certain provinces 96 per cent of those eligible had already been registered. According to the Election Council, of the 1,800,000 Cambodians entered into the system, there were 140,000 more women than men.

Updated UNTAC figures, he said, showed that 15,608 United Nations peacekeepers from 32 Member States were now active in the country. The total number of political parties registered to take part had reached 20.

Answering questions about the police and military situation in the country, the spokesman said that UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi had announced that the creation of a special inter-component prosecutor's office was being considered. Protection for political party workers and offices was also an issue, probably involving the support of the Civilian Police component. With the voter registration process coming to an end, that could be done more easily. "We have to put a stop to these attacks," he said.

* * *

With the state of the environment worse than it was 20 years ago, Governments had come to understand that they had to work together or sink together, Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said at the launching of an 884-page report entitled The World Environment 1972-1992: Two Decades of Challenge.

However, he pointed out that it was not enough for Governments to sign international agreements; those had to be followed by implementation of practical measures to protect the environment. The good news was that in the 20 years since UNEP was established in Nairobi, following the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, public awareness of the magnitude of environmental problems had grown. It was understood now that international cooperation was the only solution.

Outlining some the agency's achievements, Mr. Tolba said the UNEP had initiated legislation and funding mechanisms to deal with global problems. New ground in environmental law had been broken two weeks ago in Denmark on the Montreal Protocol, with regard to phasing out damaging substances and establishing a permanent fund for technology transfer to developing countries. Last week, in Uruguay, progress had been made in prohibiting the transfer of hazardous wastes from one country to another.

(more)

Mr. Tolba, who is stepping down at the end of this month after 17 years at the helm of UNEP, believes that the key to the agency's success has been to seek the highest scientific expertise and to make sure the science was right before drafting agreements.

* * *

Major-General Trond Furuhovde of Norway has been appointed Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with effect from 23 February 1993. He will replace Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden, who has served as Commander of UNIFIL since July 1988 and who will be returning to his national service.

General Furuhovde joined the Norwegian armed forces in 1960. From 1981 to 1983 he commanded an infantry battalion in north Norway, and then served as Commandant of the School of Infantry and Winter Warfare until 1985. He was a brigade commander from 1985 to 1988, when he was appointed Chief of Staff of UNIFIL. The following year he served as Inspector of Infantry, and then as Commander of the Oestoppland Land Defence District.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1291
16 December 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides to establish United Nations Operation in Mozambique, until 31 October next year; calls on Mozambican Government and RENAMO to cooperate fully with Secretary-General's interim Special Representative and respect scrupulously cease-fire; asks Secretary-General to seek economies through phased deployment of Force.

+ Secretary-General asks NATO to inform him of possible contingency plans for operations to ensure respect for "no-fly zone" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, safe havens and prevention of strife in Kosovo from spreading to Macedonia; sends message to Ministerial Meeting of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

+ National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea is holding four United Nations military Observers, two local UNTAC staff and 15 Indonesian peace-keepers; quick resolution of situation anticipated.

+ Four Assistant Secretary-General posts in Department of Administration and Management to be eliminated as of 1 January; offices to be headed instead by Directors with same functions and authority.

+ In El Salvador and Nicaragua, Secretary-General holds meetings with United Nations senior officials, President Cristiani, leaders of FMLN and President of Nicaragua, on Peace Agreement and its consolidation in El Salvador.

+ Israel deeply concerned over, what it calls, "extensive racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic outbursts which have taken place recently in many countries".

+ Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Arab Maghreb Union, in wake of Security Council decision not to lift sanctions against Libya, argue that measures have been taken to hand over for prosecution those believed to be responsible for destruction of two aircraft.

+ United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, meeting in Geneva for its eighth session, ends three days of deliberations under new chairmanship of Nicolas Valticos.

+ General Committee recommends consideration of convening of international conference on Somalia at General Assembly's current session.

* * *

The Security Council decided this afternoon to establish a United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), until 31 October next year, as proposed by the Secretary-General and in line with the General Peace Agreement, signed by the parties on 4 October. The Secretary-General had recommended in his report of 3 December that a United Nations presence be established in Mozambique to demobilize and disarm the two sides's forces and provide assistance for democratic elections scheduled for next fall.

In adopting resolution 797 (1992) unanimously, the Council called on the Mozambican Government and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) to cooperate fully with the interim Special Representative and with ONUMOZ and to respect scrupulously the cease-fire and all the commitments entered into force under the Peace Agreement.

The Council endorsed the approach of the Secretary-General with regard to the timetable for the electoral process and invited him to consult closely with all the parties on the precise timing of and preparations for the presidential and legislative elections, as well as other major aspects of the Agreement and to report back to the Council as soon as possible.

In his report to the Council, the Secretary-General had pointed to the fact that it would not be possible to create the conditions for a successful election in that country "unless the military situation was brought fully under control". According to his recommendations, ONUMOZ would consist of 354 military observers; five infantry battalions each comprising 850 personnel; one engineer battalion; and air, communications, medical and movement control support units.

The electoral division would consist of up to 148 international staff, followed by the deployment of up to 1,200 international observers for the elections themselves. An Office of the interim Special Representative for Mozambique would also be established, as well as an Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to oversee aid to the returning refugees when conditions in the country permit.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali appointed in mid-October an interim Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello of Italy, who went to Maputo together with 21 United Nations military observers to assist the parties in working out details concerning the peace agreement.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to share with him the results of any planning studies undertaken by it on "operations to ensure respect for the 'no-fly zone' in Bosnia and Herzegovina". He also asked for information on plans to

(more)

create safe havens and measures to prevent strife in Kosovo from spilling over into Macedonia.

The request was put forward in a letter to NATO Secretary-General Manfred Wörner. In the document, the Secretary-General states that those questions were very much on his mind as he was endeavouring to implement the various mandates relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina and considering what measures might be recommended to the Security Council "to try to prevent the various conflicts in the former Yugoslavia from spreading more widely". Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he had been informed by his Special Envoy, Cyrus Vance, of his meeting with NATO on 4 December during which the question of NATO planning for such operations was raised as a possiblity.

In a related development, the Secretary-General today sent a message to the Ministerial Meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, which began today in Geneva, saying that the current situation demanded statesmanship "of the highest order". He noted that the road ahead lay through continuous negotiations in good faith, not in actions which would serve to continue or escalate the violence.

* * *

The National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) is currently holding four United Nations military Observers, two local staff and 15 Indonesian peace-keepers, according to reports from the Spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) today. However, negotiations have begun for the release of the detainees, using the Mixed Military Working Group, an organ created by the Paris Peace Accords to deal with such maters.

The Spokesman said the local NADK commander had informed UNTAC that he would release the detainees as soon as he received orders to do so. The United Nations anticipates a quick resolution of the situation.

Two of the military observers were detained by the NADK yesterday and brought to Phum O Sala, as they were heading towards Phum Ampus to meet a registration team and a civilian political unit to evaluate the possibility of beginning registration there. As a precautionary measure this morning, two other military observers and a platoon of 15 Indonesian peace-keepers proceeded, with a NADK guide, to Phum O Sala. Later today, the UNTAC received word by radio that the NADK was holding all four military observers, two local UNTAC staff and the 15 peace-keepers.

* * *

The Spokesman for the Secretary-General today announced further details of the Secretary-General's planned elimination of four Assistant Secretary-General posts in the Department of Administration and Management. As of 1 January 1993, four of the offices will be headed instead by officials at the Director (D-2) level with the same functions and authority as those previously exercised by the Assistant Secretaries-General.

(more)

The directorships will be assigned as follows: Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, and Controller - Jacques Baudot; Conference Services - Françoise Cestac; Human Resources Management - Armando Duque, and General Services - Carole Thompson.

The Field Operations Division will be transferred to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Director will be Per Sjogren (at the D-2 level). The Management Advisory Service, under the same office, will be headed by Joseph Klee, as Chief of Service (D-1). Oleg Bugaev will be Director (D-2) of the Internal Audit Division.

The Secretary-General has also approved the reorganization of the Office of Conference Services and the Office of General Services, and details on those changes, his Spokesman said, will be released shortly.

* * *

Continuing his visit to El Salvador, the Secretary-General met this morning with the Director of United Nations Office in El Salvador and with other high officials of the United Nations system in that country.

According to a press communiqué issued by the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), the Secretary-General was expected to travel to Nicaragua today for meetings with Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro. He would leave Managua for New York early this afternoon.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with President Cristiani of El Salvador and other senior Government officials for a discussion of implementation of the Peace Agreement and its consolidation in that country. He also met with leaders of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), now an established political party, with whom he discussed the peace process and the role ONUSAL would play in that regard.

* * *

Israel has expressed deep concern over what it calls "the extensive racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic outbursts which have taken place recently in many countries".

In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Israeli Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Gad Yaacobi, said the "flames set by racists and bigots" recalled memories of the "horrible inferno of Nazism, which consumed the lives of tens of millions from many nations and destroyed a third of the Jewish people". He cited a communiqué issued by the Israeli Government condemning the "recent neo-Nazi, racist and anti-semitic phenomena" and saying that the Israeli Cabinet would continue to be active in the monitoring of anti-semitic phenomena everywhere.

Mr. Yaacobi wrote that it was the duty of the world to remember the atrocities of the past. Nations should enact appropriate legislation and severely punish those who committed acts of racist violence. "It is our duty

(more)

and our mission to condemn this threat without hesitation, and put an end to it", the Israeli Ambassador said.

* * *

In the wake of the Security Council decision last Wednesday not to lift sanctions against Libya, both the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Government and the Arab Maghreb Union have written to the President of the Council, arguing that in fact Libya had taken the measures required of it to prove its opposition to terrorism and to make available for prosecution those believed to be responsible for the destruction of two aircraft.

The Foreign Secretary of the Libyan Government wrote that, among other moves, his country had severed its relations with all terrorist groups, did not permit its territory to be used for the training of terrorists and had cooperated constructively with the Governments of the United Kingdom and France to trace those responsible for the terrorist acts concerning them.

All that remained, he said, was to arrange for the site of the trial -- in an agreed upon neutral country, of those involved in the downing of Pan Am flight 103. On the basis of this, it should be obvious that Libya had effectively implemented the Security Council demands of it and that had justified the lifting of the Council's sanctions against it, he argued.

The Foreign Ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union, meeting in Rabat on 10 December, adopted a communiqué stating their determination to "persist in efforts to identify a peaceful, just and honourable solution to the Libyan/Western crisis with a view to ending the embargo" imposed against Libya.

* * *

The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, meeting in Geneva for its eighth session, today ended three days of deliberations under the new chairmanship of Nicolas Valticos. It heard reports on the emplacement of 105 pillars marking the land boundary of Iraq and Kuwait and on further investigation of the boundary in the Khowr Zhobeir.

The Commission continued its consideration of the off-shore section of the boundary in Khowr Abd Allah and concluded that it had a sufficient basis to proceed with demarcation. It further decided that the basic principle governing the demarcation of the boundary line in Khowr Abd Allah should be the median line, with the principal purpose of the frontier settlement being navigational access for both parties.

The Commission will continue its work on the implementation of this decision regarding the boundary in the off-shore section at its next session, which is scheduled for 8 to 12 March 1993.

* * *

(more)

The General Committee this morning recommended that the General Assembly include in its agenda for the current session a new item calling for the convening of an international conference on Somalia. If adopted, the recommendation would bring to 152 the number of agenda items for the current Assembly session.

The Committee took this action in response to a letter from the Permanent Representative of Senegal in which he requested that the item be given priority consideration in the plenary.

Annexed to the letter was a memorandum which stated that the proposal for a conference was supported by a vast majority of the international community, and would fall within the framework of the action currently being undertaken in Somalia by the Security Council, the Secretary-General and all humanitarian organizations. It stated that the conference would provide an appropriate framework for a comprehensive political settlement of the Somali crisis which would assist the country's national reconciliation and the reconstruction of its national economy.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1292
17 December 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses grave concern over Israel's decision Israel to deport to southern Lebanon several hundred Palestinians from occupied territories.

+ Total of 46 Indonesian peace-keepers serving with United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia held by National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea in Phum O Sala.

+ United Nations Secretary-General expected to meet in Geneva later this month with President of Croatia and President of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; the latter Republic protests recent report by Human Rights Rapporteur on situation in former Yugoslavia.

+ Committee on sanctions against former Yugoslavia discusses request by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for permission to import liquid fuel exclusively for humanitarian purposes.

+ Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, at meeting today at Headquarters with Secretary-General, agree to continue efforts to solve East Timor question; two Foreign Ministers to meet again on 20 April in Rome.

+ Iraq protests United Nations report that it had not been cooperating with Special Commission investigation teams; says it had expected UNSCOM to recommend lifting of sanctions.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed grave concern about the decision by Israel to deport to southern Lebanon several hundred Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In a statement issued by his Spokesman today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted that the Security Council had repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention to the territories occupied by Israel, and recalled that Security Council resolution 726 (1992) had specifically requested Israel

(more)

For information media—not an official record

to refrain from such action. He called on the Israeli authorities to rescind the deportation orders and to permit the safe and immediate return of those expelled.

Disturbed by the recent escalation of violence in the occupied territories, which had resulted in Israeli and Palestinian casualties, the Secretary-General condemned the violence and urged all sides to avoid steps which might lead to a worsening of the situation and which could hamper the peace process aimed achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

* * *

A total of 46 Indonesian peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) are currently being held by the National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) in Phum O Sala, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Only nine peace-keepers had been released of the first group of 21 UNTAC peace-keepers held by NADK since yesterday. A second group of 34 Indonesian peace-keepers were detained this morning when they went to Phum O Sala to investigate the detention of their colleagues.

The spokesman said the United Nations is negotiating intensively with the NADK in an effort to resolve the situation peacefully.

* * *

The two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, have arranged for the Secretary-General to meet with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and President Dobrica Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), when the Secretary-General travels to Geneva in late December.

The Co-Chairmen also intend to bring the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina together in Geneva in early January. Expected to participate in those meetings will be President Alija Izebegovic, Bosnian-Croat leader Mate Boban and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The talks will focus on a sustainable cessation of hostilities, the demilitarization of Sarajevo, the unblocking of cities and towns under siege and the free movement of humanitarian aid. Only after that round of meetings are conducted will the Co-Chairmen be able to assess the potential for a negotiated political settlement.

In a related development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has protested the recent report by the Human Rights Commission Rapporteur on the situation in former Yugoslavia, saying it led to the conclusion "that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is responsible for acts of Serbs who are not citizens" of that country and who live outside its territory.

(more)

The protest was lodged in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 10 December, which stated that the report by Human Rights Rapporteur Tadeusz Mazowiecki contained "accusations and unfounded condemnations" which did not contribute to "upgrading the protection of human rights".

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could not be called "the aggressor" in the conflict, the letter continued, since there were no Yugoslav troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aggressor was Croatia, the letter said, which had troops in that territory. The "one-sided condemnation of the Serbs was not only unjust, but exacerbated the conflict". Pinning the blame on one of the parties to the conflict in that region could only undermine the general efforts to end the war.

Addressed to the Secretary-General, the letter was signed by the Minister for Human Rights and Minorites of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Momcilo Grubac.

In other news, Bulgaria has said that by the end of the year, the direct and indirect losses to its economy since the enforcement of the sanctions by the Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would exceed $1.2 billion.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 14 December, the Bulgarian Government said that against the background of the enormous difficulties accompanying the transition from a totalitarian political and economic system to democracy and a market economy, the aggravation of the economic situation posed a threat to the process of democratic change in the country. The letter also drew attention to the losses suffered due to the embargo against Iraq and Libya, which had cost Bulgaria $2 billion.
Documents S/24948, S/24963

* * *

The Committee established to review the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against former Yugoslavia met today to discuss a request by the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for permission to import a certain amount of liquid fuel exclusively for humanitarian purposes.

The Committee decided to suggest to Prime Minister Milan Panic that he ask relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations to prepare a plan that will verify and meet the humanitarian needs described by him, and which will ensure that any permitted goods are distributed and consumed only to satisfy those needs. The Committee will then be in a position to take a decision on the matter expeditiously.

The Committee's decision was made public in a statement by Committee Chairman José Ayala Lasso, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations.

* * *

(more)

Following meetings at Headquarters today between the Secretary-General and the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, it was agreed that efforts to solve the East Timor question would be continued. According to a statement issued this afternoon, further talks will be held at Headquarters between representatives of the two Governments, followed by a meeting with the Secretary-General and the two Foreign Ministers in Rome on 20 April 1993.

The Secretary-General met separately today with the two Foreign Ministers, as had been agreed at their preparatory talks in September, in the context of the search for "a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution" to the issue. They then held a joint meeting, and continued their discussions at a working luncheon.

* * *

Iraq has taken issue with what it describes as inaccuracies and untruths in a report of a meeting between Johan Santesson, the Chief Inspector of an investigative team of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM), and Lieutenant-General Amer Mohammed Rashid, the Director of Iraq's Military Industrial Corporation.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations says that General Amer had affirmed his country's desire to cooperate with the Special Commission on the implementation of the Council's disarmament resolution and that reports of the meeting had ignored this expression of goodwill "in a manner that is cause for astonishment".

General Amer, the Permanent Representative writes, had pointed out that the inspection teams had seen everything and verified everything relating to the resolution. All weapons and equipment prohibited by it had been destroyed, which could not have been done without the full assistance and cooperation of the Iraqi side.

The Iraqi side, he says, had been expecting the Special Commission to fulfil its own obligations by recommending to the Security Council that the economic embargo against Iraq be lifted. "Regrettably", the letter continues, "nothing of the kind had happened".

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1293
18 December 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ General Assembly says Security Council should exempt Bosnia and Herzegovina from arms embargo; calls for Council resolution providing for use of "all necessary means" if earlier resolutions not met; Assembly postpones recessing until Tuesday, 22 December.

+ Security Council condemns reported detention and rape of women, in particular Muslim women, in Bosnia and Herzegovina; asks Secretary-General to assist European delegation in getting access to detention camps and to report to Council within 15 days.

+ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees deplores Israeli authorities' deportation of about 400 Palestinians; urges Israeli Government to agree to their immediate return.

+ United Nations peace-keepers in Cambodia, detained earlier this week by National Alliance of Democratic Kamphuchea, released; Indian UNTAC soldier killed accidentally by soldier in his battalion.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees receives $50 million in donation from George Soros, international philanthropist and financier, to improve security for trapped civilians in former Yugoslavia.

+ Eight United Nations relief trucks blown up on Wednesday in northern Iraq; third incident in under three weeks, but World Food Programme says winter aid programme will continue, with additional security.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning called on the Security Council to exempt Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia and urged the Council to consider authorizing Member States, in the event that Serbian and Montenegrin forces fail to comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions, to "use all necessary means" to restore the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Assembly took that action by adopting a resolution which urged the Council to consider those measures no later than 15 January 1993. It strongly condemned Serbia, Montenegro and Serbian forces for their violation of the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for their non-compliance with existing United Nations resolutions, as well as the London Peace Accords. The Assembly also supported the Council's consideration of immediate enforcement of its ban on military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In other action this morning, the Assembly decided to explore the provisions of the Charter on preventive diplomacy, as described in the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace", encouraged the Security Council to call on parties to settle their disputes peacefully, and to consult with the Secretary-General to develop a strategy for the peaceful settlement of specific disputes.

By other provisions of that resolution, the Assembly encouraged the creation of an early-warning mechanism for situations likely to endanger international peace and security and recommended the continued use of expert fact-finding missions to investigate the situation in areas of conflict.

Other action by the Assembly this morning included, among other things, an appeal to the international community for emergency assistance for Afghanistan and seven resolutions on the apartheid policies of the Government of South Africa.

The Assembly was expected to end its work for the forty-seventh session today, but has decided to postpone recessing until Tuesday, 22 December.

* * *

The Security Council has strongly condemned massive, organized and systematic detention and rape of women, in particular Muslim women, in Bosnia and Herzegovina describing them as "acts of unspeakable brutality".

At a formal meeting this morning, all 15 members of the Council voted in favour of resolution 798 (1992) demanding that all such detention camps, and particularly camps for women, be closed immediately. The Council welcomed the initiative taken by the European Council to send a delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina to investigate the facts received until now and asked the Secretary-General to assist the delegation in getting free and secure access to the places of detention. The Secretary-General was also asked under the resolution to report to the Council within 15 days on measures taken to support the delegation.

* * *

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) today deplored the Israeli authorities' summary deportation to Lebanon of about 400 Palestinians living in the occupied territories. It urged the Israeli Government to agree to their immediate return.

(more)

Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen said that on several occasions in the recent past, UNRWA had had reason to protest the practice of deportation, which had now been resumed on a greatly increased scale. The Agency also expressed its great regret at the hasty procedures used in carrying out the deportations, which demonstrated inadequate attention to the process of law. First reports indicated that the deportees, from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, included many Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA and at least one UNRWA staff member, and UNRWA considered the deportation of its staff members as inconsistent with the United Nations Charter.

The deportations, with the onset of winter, would result in considerable hardship for a large number of affected families in the occupied territories already experiencing increased economic hardship. In an attempt to assist the deportees themselves, the Commissioner-General said, UNRWA was making every effort, with the agreement of the Lebanese authorities, to provide immediate assistance in the form of food and warm clothing and whatever temporary shelter it could arrange. Two trucks had already been dispatched to take assistance to them.

The Security Council held consultations on the matter this afternoon.

* * *

The 46 United Nations peace-keepers in Cambodia who had been detained earlier this week by the National Alliance of Democratic Kamphuchea (NADK), reportedly have been allowed to leave the village of Phum O Sala. According to the Spokesman for the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the group of Indonesian personnel were expected back in Kompong Thom earlier today.

An initial group of UNTAC peace-keepers was detaineed by the NADK on Wednesday and some of them were released yesterday. A second group of 34 Indonesian blue helmets was held when it went to Phum O Sala to investigate the detention of the first group.

In a separate incident yesterday, a soldier with UNTAC's Indian Battalion, Private Bhupen Chandraray, was shot by a soldier in his battalion. The Spokesman said that according to an initial investigation, the shooting had been an accident. The 27-year-old soldier died of injuries to the abdomen.

Private Bhupen Chandraray was the 20th person to have died while serving with UNTAC, and the fourth Indian in the operation to have died.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced today that it has received $50 million in a donation from George Soros, the international philanthropist and financier, to reinforce current efforts to bring security to the victims of the violence in former Yugoslavia.

(more)

According to a press release issued by UNHCR, the donation would enable the Agency to add a new dimension to its operations. The funds would be administered by the UNHCR and distributed to private voluntary organizations. Working with the voluntary agencies, the UNHCR would try to improve security for trapped civilians through an increased international presence in areas of conflict.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that eight trucks were blown up on Wednesday near Zakho in northern Iraq after delivering food and seeds for the Kurdish population. Unexploded time bombs were also found in nine other trucks. There were no casualties and the trucks were empty.

This is the third incident in under three weeks in which United Nations relief trucks have been blown up and unexploded time bombs found on vehicles delivering WFP winter aid supplies in northern Iraq. Six trucks were blown up on 29 November and last week unexploded time bombs were found on another six.

Despite the latest incident, WFP is going ahead with its winter relief programme in Iraq to feed nearly half-a-million people in the central and southern areas. A convoy of 71 trucks is ready to leave Dohuk for Suleimanyah and Erbil, though it will only depart when the United Nations organizes additional security.

* * *

A group of 500 Ethiopian refugees in Kenya began returning home today under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) voluntary repatriation programme. According to a UNHCR press release, the convoy of 15 trucks was the start of a program for the return of some 80,000 Ethiopians, 50,000 of whom have registered to return with UNHCR.

The repatriation from Walda and Banicca camps in Kenya is expected to be completed in two months at a cost of $2 million. Daily convoys of about 500 people will be departing from the camps, with the number increasing to 1,000 a day later.

Those heading back are being provided with a one-month supply of cereals and cooking oil. A number of quick impact projects to facilitate their reintegration are being implemented in the south of the country by UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund, non-governmental organizations and the Ethiopian Government.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1294
21 December 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, "deeply concerned about recent security incidents" decides to assign United Nations guards in Iraq to protect convoys transporting humanitarian supplies in northern part of that country.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo, after briefings in New York and Washington, meets in Port-au-Prince with Haitian leaders; expected to report back to Secretary-General in New York tomorrow.

+ Security Council condemns recent mass deportation of Palestinian civilians from occupied territories by Israel and asks Secretary-General to consider sending envoy to area to follow up on situation.

+ Head of UNRWA urges Lebanon to lift order for suspension of Agency's help to deported Palestinians; in related news, he expresses concern over increasing food shortages in Gaza Strip due to curfew imposed by Israel.

+ Joint United States/United Nations military operation in Somalia proceeding "generally as planned"; Mogadishu seaport now open and relief supplies are moving throughout city, according to United States report.

+ Secretary-General to launch hot-air balloon called "The Drop of Hope" -- symbol of role of non-governmental organizations in sustainable development -- from United Nations Garden tomorrow afternoon.

+ World Food Programme warns of impending food crisis in former Yugoslavia; appeals for additional pledges to its emergency operations.

* * *

"Deeply concerned about recent security incidents" affecting World Food Programme humanitarian relief convoys in northern Iraq, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to assign United Nations guards to strengthen the protection of the convoys in that part of the country.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

According to a statement issued by a United Nations spokesman today, the transportation route from Turkey to the three northern governants in Iraq was a vital component in the provision of relief to the area. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Nations and the Iraqi Government, Iraq had agreed to take all required measures to facilitate the safe and rapid passage as well as delivery of humanitarian assistance commodities through the country. Since the operation began in mid-November, 25 convoys with 410 trucks have brought more than 8,000 metric tonnes of much needed flour, seeds and fuel to the area.

However, within the last month, there had been three serious incidents involving the security of the trucks going through Government-controlled areas. The spokesman said that in each of these instances, the Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq, Assistant Secretary-General Richard Foran, had brought the matter to the attention of the Government, called for an immediate investigation and emphasized the responsibility of the Government to ensure the necessary security.

Recognizing the critical importance of maintaining the flow of humanitarian relief supplies to those in need in northern Iraq, especially during the winter months, and following contacts with the Government of Iraq, the Secretary-General had decided to make further use of the United Nations guards to enhance security of the convoys, the statement said.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo, arrived with his team in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Saturday, 19 December, a United Nations official said today.

Over the weekend, Mr. Caputo held meetings with the head of the de facto government, Marc Bazin; the Coordinator of the Presidential Commission, Father Antoine Adrien, and the members of the Commission; the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Alexandre Medard; the head of the Organization of American States (OAS) civilian mission, Colin Granderson; Rene Theodore, the Prime Minister designated at the time of the Washington agreement in February, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Today, Mr. Caputo will meet with the President of the Senate, Dejean Belizaire, the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, General Raoul Cedras, and members of human rights organizations.

He will return to New York this evening and tomorrow will be reporting orally to the Secretary-General on this first round of discussions. Last week, before leaving for Haiti, Mr. Caputo visited New York and Washington, where he met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

* * *

The Security Council, at a formal meeting held Friday night, 18 December, strongly condemned the recent mass deportation of Palestinian civilians from

(more)

the occupied territories by Israel and asked the Secretary-General to consider sending an envoy to the area to follow up on the serious situation there and to report to the Council. In adopting unanimously resolution 799 (1992), the Council further demanded that Israel ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported.

The text affirmed that the deportation constitutes a contravention of Israel's obligations under the 1949 Geneva Convention which is applicable to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. Article 49 of the that Convention states that "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive".

The Council also reaffirmed, under the resolution, the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon -- the country to which the Palestinians have been deported.

The observer for Palestine, M. Nasser Al-Kidwa said the Palestinian people could not participate in the peace process while Israel continued its policy of deportations. They could not participate in a process that was going nowhere and was used by the other side as a smokescreen for its actions.

In his statement to the Council, the representative of Israel, Gad Yaacobi, said "Israel remains fully committed to the quest for peace. We shall not withdraw from the peace talks". He believed that the majority of people in the Middle East hoped to depart from the path of conflict and violence, but the goals of terrorist organizations such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas was to kill Israelis and kill the peace process. Israel remained committed to the dual goals of peace and war against terrorism.

* * *

In a related development, Ilter Turkmen, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has called upon the Lebanese Government to reconsider its decision to ask agencies providing emergency assistance to the deportees to suspend their relief operations. The decision was announced following the Government's move to push some 400 Palestinians, deported last week by Israel, further south into Israeli-controlled Lebanese territory.

Mr. Turkmen expressed concern about "the potential for increased suffering and loss of life which this decision might cause". He said the decision to terminate UNRWA's emergency relief operations and to push the deportees southwards had come as "a regrettable surprise". The Commissioner-General has written to the Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq al Hariri, urging him to reconsider the order and to allow UNRWA to resume its temporary emergency humanitarian operation.

(more)

Among the deportees are 16 employees of the Agency, 11 from the Gaza Strip and five from the West Bank. All but two of them are teachers in UNRWA schools.

In other related news, the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip has prompted Mr. Turkmen to call on the Israeli authorities to allow UNRWA to provide emergency food assistance to people in the region. It was sealed off by the Israeli authorities on 8 December and a round-the clock curfew was imposed in most areas on 13 December.

In a press release issued yesterday, the Commissioner-General said most of Gaza's 750,000 inhabitants were confined to their homes -- a situation which was causing economic and social disruption. The Agency had received many requests from Palestinians in Gaza to help alleviate the worsening food shortage, he said.

* * *

The joint United State/United Nations military operation in Somalia is proceeding "generally as planned", primarily due to the ability of the Somalia port and airfield structure to support the deployment of the Unified Task Force (UNITAF), according to a report submitted by the United States.

Citing preliminary indications from relief organizations on the ground that security operations have been "very successful", the report says the seaport in Mogadishu is now open and relief supplies are moving throughout the city.

The rapid and extensive response of United Nations Member States to the Security Council resolution, allowing use of force to ensure deliveries of humanitarian aid to Somalia, and the recent cease-fire agreement between the two major Somali factions, are "possitive indications that the operation will continue successfully", the report says.

It describes the concept of operations developed by the Commander-In-Chief of the United States Central Command which focuses on the areas of greatest need and suffering -- Mogadishu, Baledogle, Baidoa and Kismayo, among others. The United States forces will build to approximately 28,000 personnel, augmented with UNITAF forces from the 20 countries that have committed to provide over 17,000 personnel to date.

The report was transmitted in a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 17 December, from the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Edward J. Perkins.
Document S/24976

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will launch a hot-air balloon called "The Drop of Hope" from the United Nations Garden tomorrow afternoon, 22 December.

(more)

The launching of the water-drop-shaped balloon will mark the efforts of non-governmental organizations at the current session of the General Assembly, leading to the recognition of their collective voices in the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development. The main task of this high-level Commission is to monitor how countries implement Assembly resolutions, based on the Rio agreements, that are to become the blueprint for environmentally sound development.

Last June, "The Drop of Hope" was launched in Rio de Janeiro during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Financed by private companies, Governments, non-governmental organizations and local communities, it is used to sensitize and educate the public on environmental matters in general and on the problems of drinking water in particular.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that the food supply situation in the former Yugoslav republics will become critical over the winter months if donors do not quickly make additional pledges of relief food for WFP's emergency operations.

Following the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Programme of Action and Appeal for former Yugoslavia, WFP was requested to carry out a major humanitarian operation in six former Yugoslav republics. The operation, which began early last November, covers the supply of basic needs of over 3 million refugees, displaced people and malnourished infants and children.

To date, however, pledges from the international community cover only half the requirements for the winter period from January to March 1993. No pledges have been made for spring 1993. Relief food stocks in regional warehouses are now extremely low and there is virtually no buffer stock to cushion against an expected break in the pipeline in late January.

Over the next six weeks, a total of 31,000 tonnes of food will be delivered by WFP to Lubjana, Zagreb, Split, Belgrade, Titograd and Skopje. But no further tranches are expected to arrive until mid-February. The crisis will be particularly severe in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its 1.6 million refugees and displaced persons.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1295
22 December 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, urges UNITA and Angolan Government to agree on "realistic plan" for implementation of Peace Accords; calls on parties to accept Secretary-General's invitation to joint meeting, under his auspices.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council defer decision on planning for transition between present Unified Task Force and new United Nations Operation in Somalia until evaluation has been made of success in establishing secure environment for humanitarian operations.

+ Security Council, in second statement this evening, condemns illegal detention of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia personnel by elements of Party of Democratic Kampuchea; calls for action to safeguard security of UNTAC staff.

+ Voter registration period for elections in Cambodia next year extended by one month, to 31 January 1993; spokesman says that will not affect date of elections, still scheduled to take place by end of May.

+ Secretary-General tells Israeli Foreign Minister of his intention to send Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah to area to discuss with Israeli Government mass deportation of Palestinians to Lebanon.

+ Co-Chairmen of Conference on Former Yugoslavia, following elections in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, say they will continue to talk to "whoever holds positions of power and influence"; to meet on 27 and 28 December with Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Republic of Yugoslavia.

* * *

Concerned at the lack of progress in implementing the Angola Peace Agreement and at the continuation of the dangerous political and security situation in that country, the Security Council today urged the parties to agree on a "realistic plan" for the implementation of the Accords and to facilitate a continuing United Nations presence in Angola.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In a statement read out by Council President Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan (India) on its behalf this evening, the Council urged the two parties to "produce early evidence of their willingness and ability" to work together to implement the Agreement, "so that the international community would feel encouraged to continue to commit its scarce resources to the continuation of the United Nations operation in Angola on its present scale".

The Council further urged that the military forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) be immediately withdrawn from Uige and Negage and that the Government administration be fully restored there.

The Council appealed to President dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to accept the Secretary-General's invitation to attend, under his auspices, a joint meeting to confirm that real progress had been made in the reactivation of the Bicesse Accords.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council defer its decision on the planning of a new United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) to take over from the United States-led Unified Task Force until it becomes clear whether it has achieved its goal of establishing a secure environment for humanitarian operations.

In his report to the Council, dated 19 December, he says such a transition should await the establishment of a cease-fire, the control of heavy weapons, the disarming of lawless gangs and the creation of a new police force. "Without for one moment suggesting that the Unified Task Force should remain in Somalia until the peace process achieves its goals, I do believe that progress in the peace process must be taken into account in deciding how and when the Force should be replaced by a new UNOSOM", he says.

He goes on to warn that the international community faces a long haul in helping the people of Somalia to put their country on its feet again. "Hasty decisions at the very beginning of this process could have far-reaching and nefarious consequences," he writes. "It would be a tragedy if the premature departure, or remodelling, of the Unified Task Force were to plunge Somalia back into anarchy and starvation and destroy the fragile political progress of recent weeks."

The Secretary-General notes that at the most recent meeting with United States representatives on Friday, 18 December, it became clear that their thinking with regard to a new UNOSOM differed somewhat from that presented in his report. They envisaged the new mandate, level of armament and rules of engagement as "little different" from that of the Unified Task Force itself, he said. Warning that such a concept of "a peace enforcement operation under United Nations command" would have "far-reaching consequences", he also notes it would depend on Member States' readiness to support and finance such an operation.

(more)

The Secretary-General reports that he has decided to convene an informal preparatory meeting for a conference of national reconciliation and unity on Somalia, to be held at the United Nations headquarters in Addis Ababa on 4 January, 1993.
Document S/24992

* * *

The Security Council has strongly condemned the illegal detention of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) personnel by elements of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and acts of threat and intimidation against them.

In a Presidential statement issued this evening, it demanded that such actions and any other hostile acts against UNTAC cease immediately, and that all parties take action necessary to safeguard the lives and the security of UNTAC personnel throughout Cambodia.

The Council urged all the parties to abide scrupulously by their obligations under the Paris Agreement to cooperate fully with UNTAC and to respect all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

* * *

The voter registration process in preparation for the elections in Cambodia next year has been extended by one month, to 31 January 1993. Announcing the extension at Headquarters today, a United Nations spokesman stressed that it would not affect the date of the elections, which were still scheduled to take place no later than May.

The spokesman said that the original appraisal that 4.5 million people would be eligible to vote appeared to be an underestimate. Already 4.2 million had been registered, and the extension would provide returning refugees with a better chance to sign up. According to a spokesman for the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), about 250,000 will have been repatriated by the end of December, and the extension is expected to benefit another 100,000, some of whom will still be in transit camps.

The registration period, which was to have run from 5 October to 31 December, started late in parts of the country. Some areas, the spokesman said, had not been accessible till recently, and UNTAC wanted to ensure that all qualified voters were given the opportunity to be included in the process.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, according to his Spokesman, telephoned Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres today, to discuss the subject of the deportation last week of about 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories to southern Lebanon. Mr. Boutros-Ghali informed Mr. Peres of his

(more)

intention to send an envoy, Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah, to discuss the situation with the Israeli Government, in the hope of finding a solution.

The Security Council, in a resolution adopted on Friday evening, asked the Secretary-General to send an envoy to the area to follow up on the serious situation there and to report back to the Council. It also demanded that Israel ensure the safe and immediate return of all the deportees.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, in a statement issued in Geneva today, said that they looked forward to hearing the final reports of those monitoring the elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They said they had always adopted the course of talking to whoever held positions of power and influence in the former Yugoslavia, and intended to proceed on a persistent path towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

To that end, they said they would be meeting with President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, President Tudjman of Croatia and President Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on Sunday and Monday, 27 and 28 December, in Geneva, to prepare for talks to be held on 2 January with the representatives from the three countries.

The focus of those talks, they said, would be a sustainable cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the demilitarization of Sarajevo; an agreement on a pull-back of forces that supports the direction of the overall political settlement and the free movement of citizens from beseiged towns and cities and the free movement of humanitarian aid.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1296
23 December 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to leave Headquarters tonight for Geneva; to chair meeting of Group of High-level Personalities on African Development on 28 December and preparatory meeting for Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia on 4 January.

+ General Assembly suspends work for forty-seventh session; hears statement by Assembly President saying crisis in Somalia offers evidence that Assembly is "both obliged and prepared to respond to such appeals".

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appeals to Bangladesh Prime Minister to halt coerced return of Myanmar refugees to their homeland; expresses concern about violence in refugee camps on border.

+ Croatia protests letter from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which names Croatia as aggressor in Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying that assertion is "blatantly false".

+ General Assembly's Fifth Committee recommends $2.4 billion appropriation for 1992-1993 biennium -- increase of $78 million over last year's appropriation for period; cost of peace-keeping is put at $109 million.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave Headquarters tonight for Geneva, according to his Spokesman, who told correspondents today that his stay in Geneva through 27 December will be private.

On 28 December, the Secretary-General will chair a meeting of the Group of High-level Personalities on African Development. Also that day, individual meetings have been scheduled between the Secretary-General, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, and President Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), President Itzebegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and President Tudjman of Croatia.

(more)

On 4 January, the Secretary-General would chair the preparatory meeting for the convening of a Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia. The Secretary-General would then travel to Germany on an official visit from 11 to 12 January, and to France on 13 January for the Chemical Weapons Treaty signing in Paris.

The Secretary-General was expected back in New York around 15 or 16 January, the spokesman said.

* * *

In a statement marking the end of the main part of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the President, Stoyan Ganev, said that the Assembly had adopted 270 resolutions on major problems confronting the world, among them texts on convening an international conference on Somalia and the undertaking of specific actions regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The crisis in Somalia offered evidence that the Assembly was "both obliged and prepared to respond to such appeals". One of the more significant implications of the post-cold war geopolitical realignment was "an increased practical role for the General Assembly in world activities", the Assembly President said.

An other area on which the forty-seventh session of the Assembly had rightly focused its attention was the report of the Secretary-General, "An Agenda for Peace", which, Mr. Ganev said, was serving as a blueprint for the future structuring and activities of the United Nations. A strong consensus now existed to act on many of the issues which that report had singled out as facing the Organization.

Endorsing the "Agenda 21" recommendations on arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the General Assembly yesterday requested the Economic and Social Council to establish a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development. The Assembly recommended that the Commission consist of representatives of 53 States elected by the Council for three-year terms; that it meet once a year for a period of two to three weeks beginning next year, and that its secretariat be located in New York.

By an other resolution, the Assembly urged creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions to extend new financial support to developing countries, particularly those low-income countries with substantial debt burdens which continue, at great cost, to service their debt and meet their international obligations.

Amongst other actions related to the Conference on Environment and Development, the Assembly moved to establish an international convention to combat desertification, decided to convene the first global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and declared 22 March of each year as World Day for Water.

(more)

It also endorsed the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, all of which were adopted by the Rio Conference.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, today appealed to Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to take all necessary measures to halt the coerced return of Myanmar refugees to their homeland.

According to a statement issued by UNHCR, the Bangladesh Government, which has extended asylum to some 250,000 refugees from Myanmar, has pledged its strict adherence to the principle of voluntary repatriation. However, UNHCR says it has been prevented from conducting private interviews to ascertain whether those returning are indeed doing so voluntarily. In past weeks, it has witnessed the involuntary repatriation of Myanmar refugees -- incidents that have been confirmed by other, independent sources as well. More than 4,000 people have reportedly returned to Myanmar from Bangladesh.

The UNHCR says it has been denied free and unhindered access to the refugee camps and is therefore unable to carry out its protection mandate or effectively monitor the relief programme. It has been holding intensive negotiations with senior Bangladesh Government officials in an effort to ensure that minimum international standards of protection are applied, but the Bangladesh Government has so far been unwilling to change the existing practices.

High Commissioner Ogata expresses her deep concern about the deterioration in security in refugee camps on the Bangladesh/Myanmar border, including beatings, violence, demonstrations and other incidents that have resulted in loss of life. She also expresses her determination to do all she can to promote voluntary repatriation and to protect and assist refugees; however, she contends that her role will have to be reassessed if her mandate can not be carried out satisfactorily.

* * *

Croatia has protested a letter from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in which Croatia is named as the aggressor in Bosnia and Herzegovina with some 40,000 to 60,000 regular Croatian troops fighting there.

Calling that assertion "blatantly false", Mario Nobilo, Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, says in a letter, dated 17 December, that his country has stationed some of its troops on the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, from which, he says, Serbian forces have been continuously attacking Croatian cities and towns within Croatia.

He asserts that the ethnic Croatian forces which are fighting against Serbian aggression in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina consist of

(more)

members of the local Croatian population who have taken up arms in order to protect themselves, their families and their property against Serbian forces.

The letter, which is addressed to the Secretary-General, notes that the "greatest threat" to the Serbian people is not the policies of Croatia, Islamic fundamentalism or the Catholic Church, "but the policies of the Serbian Government and the radical Serbian elements in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina".
S/24982

* * *

The General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Budgetary and Administrative) has recommended a $2.4 billion appropriation for the 1992-1993 biennium, an increase of $78 million over the Assembly's previous appropriation for the period. The Committee also recommended that the Assembly increase income estimates for the biennium by $22 million. The recommendations were contained in the draft report on the 1992-1993 programme budget, approved by the Committee yesterday as it completed its work for the 47th session of the General Assembly.

The cost of peace-keeping and special missions was estimated to be $109 million, an increase of $13 million over appropriations the Assembly approved last year. The report also recommended that the Assembly approve expenditures of $14 million for development and international economic cooperation and $40 million for the regular United Nations programme of technical cooperation. Recommended spending on social development and humanitarian affairs would be $14,700,300.

Before approval of the draft, the representatives of the United Kingdom and Japan said it was procedurally unacceptable to present the report to the General Assembly on the day of its consideration, saying that it did not speak well to the seriousness of the work to appropriate millions of dollars on the basis of a document which would not be issued in time for adequate review.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1297
24 December 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Despite continuing absence of agreement on Western Sahara, Secretary-General says he will take "concrete steps" towards holding referendum at earliest possible date.

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, meets with his Special Representative for Somalia and with Cyrus Vance, Co-Chairman of Yugoslav Conference.

+ General Assembly, as it suspends current session, approves controversial budget assessments for States of former Soviet Union; adopts 276 resolutions during main part of its forty-seventh session.

* * *

Despite continuing absence of an agreement with the parties on the settlement plan for Western Sahara, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says he feels obliged to "take concrete steps" towards the holding of the referendum for the Territory. He will therefore submit his report to the Security Council in the second half of January, setting forth the various steps necessary to hold the referendum at the earliest possible date.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council yesterday, the Secretary-General said he had postponed his report in order to await the results of the consultative meeting of tribal chiefs of Western Sahara, which was to be held in Geneva early December. However, the meeting was cancelled due to "discrepancies" with regard to the criteria for the identification of voters.

The Secretary-General wrote that he expects both parties to fully cooperate with him in order to organize the referendum in Western Sahara on the basis of agreements among all concerned on the major aspects of the settlement plan for the Territory.
S/25008

* * *

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Geneva with his Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat T. Kittani, to discuss the preparations for the Conference for National Reconciliation in that country. He also met with the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance.

In separate news, a United Nations spokesman said today that Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah would be leaving New York tomorrow evening, 25 December, for Tel Aviv, where he will meet with senior Israeli officials during the next 4-5 days.

The Secretary-General has decided to send Mr. Jonah as his Envoy to Israel to discuss the subject of the deportation last week of about 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories to southern Lebanon.

* * *

The General Assembly, before suspending its current session, yesterday adopted recommendations concerning the rates of budget assessment of 15 member countries which were part of the former Soviet Union, and three States which were part of the former Yugoslavia, as well as San Marino.

That matter is of particular concern to the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, many of which have insisted that their rate of assessment should be determined on an individual basis in accordance with their capacity to pay as sovereign nations and not in terms of the assessment of the former Soviet Union, as recommended by the Committee of Contributions.

Under another resolution adopted yesterday, the Assembly established a Peace-keeping Reserve Fund of $150 million to be used, under the authority of the Secretary-General, to advance sums for unforeseen, new, renewed or expanded peace-keeping operations, as well as for the start-up costs of new operations.

The Assembly reaffirmed its own role by stressing that the Secretariat's restructuring should be carried out in close consultations with Member States. It also urged the Secretary-General to further encourage member countries to meet their financial obligations in respect of outstanding contributions to the regular budget and to all peace-keeping operations.

During the main part of its current session, the Assembly held a total of 94 meetings and adopted a total of 276 resolutions: 201 without a vote and 75 with a recorded vote.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1298
29 December 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General proposes enlargement of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia with 10,000 additional troops to provide for 24-hour observation and search operation at crossing points on Bosnia and Herzegovina's borders.

+ Secretary-General, in an address before Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development, says that what Africa needs is practical solutions; New Agenda for Development of Africa must be focused and coordinated and must be based on people.

+ Meetings with Presidents of three ex-Yugoslav republics continue in Geneva under Secretary-General's auspices; Co-Chairmen's Spokesman reports of "fresh momentum" and "extensive groundwork" laid down for framework for political settlement.

+ Report by Secretary-General on South Africa, while recognizing responsibility of that Government for maintenance of law and order, calls on "all political leaders" to take immediate action to curb political violence.

+ Security Council Committee asks Swiss Government to take necessary measures to prevent proposed sale of 60 Pilatus PC-7 trainer aircraft to South Africa.

+ Secretary-General, at meeting in Geneva with Foreign Minister of Russian Federation, says he has been asked to send new mission to Estonia in next few weeks; discusses cooperation between United Nations and Russia Federation, among other things.

+ Iraqi Permanent Representative to United Nations says Iraq has repatriated all Kuwaitis and third country nationals present in his country through International Committee of Red Cross.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ Situation in occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, deteriorates at "alarming pace" as result of increasingly repressive measures by Israel, the Occupying Power, against Palestinians there, warns Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed an enlargement of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) with 10,000 additional troops to provide for a 24-hour observation and search operation at 123 crossing points on Bosnia and Herzegovina's border with neighbouring countries.

The enlarged mandate proposed by the Secretary-General would allow the new observers to not only search but also to turn back or confiscate military personnel, weapons or sanctioned goods crossing the border in violation of the Security Council's resolutions.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 21 December, the Secretary-General says the proposal would require a significant addition to the strength and material resources of UNPROFOR. He points out that a symbolic presence at selected crossing points would "not only fail to fulfil the Council's requirements, but would also undermine the already strained crediblity of UNPROFOR".

The Secretary-General also points to the question of obtaining the troops and logistic support from United Nations Member States, saying such difficulties could result in considerable delays in deployment. He states that "it is unlikely that UNPROFOR would have an effective capability" to observe Bosnia and Herzegovna's borders before April 1993, at the earliest.

In a related development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has rejected what it calls "false" reports by the United Nations Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina of alleged attacks by Yugoslav aircraft in mid-December against certain villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina along the border with Serbia at the Drina river.

The Yugoslav Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dragomir Djokic, says the "unsubstantiated allegations" are part of a systematic propaganda campaign by Bosnia and Herzegovina to invoke foreign military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
S/25000

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, addressing a Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development held in Geneva yesterday, said the New Agenda for Development must be focused and coordinated and it must be based on people, with full attention to participation and human rights.

(more)

The New Agenda, he said, must mobilize the efforts of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and frameworks and bilateral donors. "What Africa needs is practical solutions," he said.

Too many indicators of social and economic progress in Africa tell a disappointing story, the Secretary-General said. Some were inclined to write Africa off as hopeless, while others see Africa as a special case to which the principles of economics do not apply. "It is our approach that has failed, Africa has not", he said.

The Secretary-General went on to say there were three issues which needed to be tackled afresh if the economic development of Africa were to proceed. They were external debt, regional and subregional integration, and diversification of the economy. When African Governments become tagged as bad debtors or bad prospects, he said, private investment goes elsewhere. Long-term financial flows into sub-Saharan Africa declined from $10 billion to $4.7 billion between 1982 and 1990.

The debt burden was a major obstacle to the return of private investment to Africa and easing that burden must be a priority for the international community. Reform of the African State was a prerequisite of reform of the African economy.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali held meetings in Geneva over the weekend with the two Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, and with the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Dobrica Cosic, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to Fred Eckhardt, the Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, the talks, which are scheduled to continue on 2 January, aim at finding a negotiated political solution for all of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The free movement of citizens from beseiged towns and cities, and the free movement of humanitarian aid is also being discussed.

In a press release issued at Headquarters today, he said the overall level of fighting had decreased in recent days and relief supplies were again getting through by air and by land. "Extensive groundwork" had been laid down and a framework for a settlement had been established by the Co-Chairmen. There was "a fresh momentum to the Geneva talks", he said, and January would be a telling month for the efforts of the Co-Chairmen.

* * *

In a new report to the Security Council on the question of South Africa, dated 22 December, the Secretary-General has said that while it is recognized that the Government of South Africa has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, all political leaders must take immediate action

to curb political violence. "Lack of political freedom in the homelands continues to be a source of tension and violence", he said.

The report went on to state that the international observer teams sent to South Africa had been welcomed by all concerned and some had contended that the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) ought to be strengthened and its mandate expanded. By all accounts, it said, the international observers had performed well in adapting their operations to meet the needs on the ground and have had a salutary effect on the political situation in general. Given the delicate situation now prevailing in South Africa, characterized by unacceptable rising levels of violence, the Secretary-General recommended in his report to modestly reinforce UNOMSA with an increment of 10 additional observers.

The report stated that while progress had been made in enhancing and reinforcing the structures established under the National Peace Accord, much remained to be done particularly with regard to the National Peace Committee and the National Peace Secretariat. The Government of South Africa should ensure that adequate resources were made available to facilitate the operations of the National Peace Committee and the National Peace Secretariat at all levels.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, R.F. Botha, in a statement dated 18 December, said his Government welcomed the commitment by all signatories of the National Peace Accord to the process of peaceful change in South Africa by fully and effectively implementing its provisions and by cooperating with each other to that end.

He said the omnibus resolution on South Africa, adopted by the General Assembly last week, contained a few references to outdated practices. However, the resolution acknowledged that apartheid is gone and that a new era awaited South Africa. He urged all parties to play a constructive role in bringing about peace, stability and progress.
S/25004, A/48/57

* * *

The Chairman of the Security Council Committee today decided to request the Swiss Government to take necessary measures to prevent the proposed sale of some 60 Pilatus PC-7 trainer aircraft to South Africa. The Committee took the view that the sale of the aircraft would be contrary to the spirit and intent of Security Council resolution 418 (1977) establishing a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

The Committee also noted that in resolution 591 (1986) the Security Council had urged "all States to prohibit the export to South Africa of items which they have reason to believe are destined for military and/or police forces in South Africa; have military capacity and are intended for military purposes."

(more)

The Permanent Observer of Switzerland to the United Nations, in his letter dated 27 May and 22 September, 1992, described his Government's position that the Pilatus PC-7 aircraft does not fall within the purview of the Swiss Federal Law of 30 June 1972.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, at a meeting in Geneva over the weekend with the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Andrei Kozyrev, discussed a number of issues ranging from cooperation between the United Nations and the Russian Federation to the situation in Somalia, Angola, Mozambique and the former Yugoslavia.

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General told the press that upon the request of the Russian Federation, the United Nations would send another mission to Estonia in the next few weeks. A mission had already been sent to Georgia, he said, and he was sending a mission to Tajikistan and two fact-finding missions to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Commenting on the situation in former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General said that despite all the difficulties, the United Nations has been able to provide the humanitarian assistance and maintain a cease-fire in that region.

"I know that the international public opinion is frustrated and wants to see quick results. The fact is that the process which is there is important. Let us give a chance to this process to be able to reach a solution," he urged.

* * *

Nizar Hamdoon, the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has told the Secretary-General in a letter, dated 22 December, that Iraq has repatriated all Kuwaitis and third country nationals present in its territory through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Furthermore, he said, Iraq has expressed its readiness, on many occasions and in numerous international fora, to cooperate in the search for and identification of the missing persons.

The issue of Kuwaiti missing persons, Mr. Hamdoon states, was intended to serve as a means of political blackmail by Kuwait for the purpose of prolonging the unjust embargo against Iraq. Citing a report on the subject by a committee of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, the Iraqi Ambassador claims that some of the names of missing Kuwaiti nationals submitted by the Kuwaiti authorities to Iraq through the ICRC, "are currently being held in Kuwaiti prisons or were killed during the military operations in the Gulf war". S/25012

* * *

The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate at a very alarming pace as a result of increasingly repressive measures by Israel, the Occupying Power, against the Palestinian

(more)

people there, according to Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Mr. Al-Kidwa said that this has been occurring parallel to Israel's mass deportation of Palestinian civilians on 17 December. The Gaza strip, in particular, he said, had been under siege and devastated by a succession of violent acts committed by the Israeli military, resulting in severe shortages of foodstuffs, water and essential medicines, he stated.

The letter urged the international community to meet its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people and called upon the United Nations to provide immediate protection for the Palestinians living under occupation.
S/25016

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1299
30 December 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali tells news conference in Geneva today that he would travel to Sarajevo tomorrow; also announces establishment of three-man tribunal on war crimes in former Yugoslavia; to meet shortly with Under-Secretary-General James Jonah, Special Envoy in Middle East, who is currently in the area.

+ Somalia's Permanent Representative to United Nations urges that no new decisions be taken on Somalia until all local factions are consulted.

+ Helicopter belonging to United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia fired upon yesterday; no casualties reported.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told a news conference in Geneva today that he would be going to Sarajevo tomorrow, following the first round of talks he held over the weekend with the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia - Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, as well as with the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) Dobrica Cosic, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary-General further announced his intention to establish a three-man tribunal on war crimes to examine violations of human rights committed by all three sides in the Yugoslav conflict. A five-member Commission, previously established by the Security Council, is currently examining reports on human rights violations and grave breaches of the international human rights conventions. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the work of the tribunal and the Commission would be coordinated.

Speaking about the situation in the Middle East and the recent deportation of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities, the Secretary-General told correspondents that his Special Envoy to the area, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs James Jonah, was currently holding talks with Israeli and Lebanese officials on the matter and would report to the Secretary-General shortly.

(more)

Earlier today, the Secretary-General met with Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) concerning the deportation of about 400 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip by Israel to southern Lebanon.

* * *

Fatun Mohamed Hassan, the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations, in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, dated 24 December, said that she was was inclined to support the Secretary-General's position in requesting the Security Council that no new decisions on the situation in Somalia be taken until all the local factions are consulted on the subject.

In addition to ongoing consultations with all factions in Somalia, the collective view of these factions could be determined during the "informal meeting" scheduled for 4 January over which the Secretary-General was expected to preside, she states.

"I trust that the United States will consider the situation, as it always has, and will ensure that the United Nations will eventually take over responsibility from the Unified Military Command effectively to continue the inevitable peace-keeping operations in good time for all," also said Ms. Hassan.

The Somali representative urged all Member States to provide the resources that would bring about the humanitarian and security dimensions of the Somali crisis to an end and provide a cradle for reconciliation and stability in that country.

* * *

In a first such incident in four weeks, an helicopter belonging to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was hit with small arms fire outside of Battambang province, in Cambodia, yesterday. No one was injured in the incident during which two bullets pierced the fuselage, according to UNTAC acting spokesman Eric Berman.

It was the twenty-third time that an UNTAC helicopter was hit in such a way.

* *** *